

CT - cystogram

What is a CT scan?

Computed Tomography (CT) is a way of using x-rays to take pictures in very fine slices through the part of the body that the doctor has asked to be investigated.

CT scanners can produce multiple slices of the body in one single rotation and the CT computer is able to stack these slices together to create images in multiple planes. With all of these different slices and 3D reconstructions, the radiologist will have a very detailed picture of the structures making up your body. This will help them to make a diagnosis so that the right treatment can be planned as soon as possible.

A CT cystogram scan essentially covers the kidney, ureters and bladder, but will also assess organs of the abdomen and pelvis.

What preparation is required?

A CT cystogram scan may require you to have an iodinated contrast injection and therefore requires you to fast for two hours prior to the examination. You can take medications with water during this period if necessary.

What is involved?

The radiographer will position you on the CT table and the table will move in and out of the CT scanner and a series of pictures will be performed. Pre-contrast images may be first obtained of the bladder if deemed necessary by the reporting radiologist. One of our medical imaging nurses will connect, under sterile conditions, a bag containing a dilute contrast solution to your urinary catheter, termed an indwelling urinary catheter (IDC). If you do not have a urinary catheter in at the time of your booking, please notify the receptionist making your appointment, as this may be needed to be inserted prior to the CT in the department by one of our doctors.

The dilute contrast will be allowed to flow freely into the bladder under the pressure of gravity until a either specified amount has been reached or you feel a sensation of 'fullness' similar to when having the need to pass urine. At this point another set of CT images will be taken and then checked immediately with the reporting radiologist. Sometimes, a third set of CT images may need to be taken once the bladder had been allowed to drain of the contrast solution. The radiologist will indicate to the radiographer and/or medical imaging nurse whether or not this will be required.

It is very important that you lie still for this test and hold your breath when requested. Any movement can blur the images, similar to when a moving object blurs a photograph and the test may need to be repeated.

What is an iodinated contrast?

The administration of an iodinated contrast dye during a CT scan can give significantly more information by highlighting blood vessels. This helps the radiologist provide a more comprehensive diagnosis.

If contrast is required for your test you will be asked to complete a questionnaire to assess your suitability.

Are there any side effects?

If you have an injection of iodinated contrast, you may experience a sensation of warmth and a strange taste. These usually go away within a few minutes. In rare cases, some people may be allergic to the iodinated contrast.

If you have any concerns, please contact the department and speak with one of our staff.

How long will my scan take?

Depending on the scans required it takes 25 - 45 minutes.

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

How much will this cost?

Please discuss this with the receptionist in Cabrini Medical Imaging at the time of booking your procedure.

Important

It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the relevant number below.